

Testimony Concerning HB 5315
Environment Committee, Wed., Feb. 24, 2016
Ilene Coman

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5315, a Bill to be proactive about bears in CT so that hunting of them should never be the way to handle the population.

I know that the DEEP tells people to contact them every time they see a bear but that is not a realistic request, especially in areas of the state where there are more bears and they can receive many calls about the same bear(s). My feeling is that the DEEP is looking for higher numbers so that they can ask for a law that would allow hunting of bears in CT. That is not necessary. This proposed Bill would help to educate the public and keep them attuned to what to do and not do, especially when coming across a bear in a state park or forest.

The woman who came across 2 bears in the Fall did everything wrong and because of what she did and how one of the bears reacted to her incorrect actions, the DEEP decided to search for the bears and killing both bears. If the woman had done what you're supposed to do, make loud noises and wave your hands, instead of talking nicely to them and videotaping them as one of them was curious and touched her pants leg, the bear wouldn't have walked up to her in curiosity, and wouldn't have been killed by the DEEP.

We have bears in our state so it is important to be proactive, not by hunting them, but making sure that the public knows what to do if they see one. Another example of people doing the wrong things when confronted by a bear, the 2 joggers who came across one in a park. You aren't supposed to run away if you see a bear because if a bear wants to run after you, there is no way that a person could outrun a bear. Luckily the bear didn't chase and nab them but he could have.

No person has been hurt or killed by the bears in our state. I know that the DEEP is looking for an excuse to allow bear hunting but I don't see that need. Instead, this Bill is what is needed at this time.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,
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